

Serial No.: 10/508,878
Atty. Docket No.: P70111US0

REMARKS

By this Response, Applicants have amended claims 1-11 and 16-19. Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 16 are independent. Claims 12-15 and 20-22 have been withdrawn.

As an initial matter, Applicants have corrected informalities noted in the specification, including the addition of headings and the removal of references to the claims. The text added to page 1 corresponds with the previously referenced claim such that no new matter has been added. Applicants have also amended the abstract to correct informalities therein.

In the Requirement for Restriction mailed February 2, 2006, the Examiner stated that the captioned application includes two groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The invention groups include Group I, claims 1-11 and 16-19, drawn to a method and apparatus for shaping internal tooth formations in a sleeve element; and Group II, claims 12-15 and 20-22, drawn to a method and apparatus for forming undercuts on internal teeth of a sleeve element.

Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-11 and 16-19) directed to the method and apparatus for shaping internal tooth formations in a sleeve element, without traverse.

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With this amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination on the merits as a unitary invention. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By *Sp C Bailey* Reg No 40,495 for
Harvey B. Jacobson, Jr.
Reg. No. 20,851

400 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
Telephone: (202) 638-6666
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HBJ:SCB
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